Stagnation in Indian Economy

131. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economy at present appears to be in the grip of stagnation as per an assessment made by the National Council for Applied Economic Research as per the news report appearing in the Times of India of the 23rd December, 1991 entitled "Economy in grip of Stagnation: NCAER report";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) There has been a sectoral recession in industrial production in the first eight months of the current financial year 1991-92. However, other sectors of the economy are likely to show positive growth and the overall growth in the GDP is expected to be between 2 to 3 per cent. The inflationary pressure in the economy has started easing. The annual rate of inflation as on 8th February, 1992 at 11.8 per cent was lower as compared with 13.7 per cent as on 9th February, 1991. Government have been taking all possible measures to reverse the recessionary trend in industrial production and contain the inflation.

Rise in Wholesale and Consumer Price Index

132. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M.S. GURUPADA-SWAMY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the "Consumer Price Index" at the end of 1991 and how does it compare with the rise at the quarter ending December, 1990, March, 1991, June, 1991 and September, 1991;

(b) what are the reasons for the unabated rise in the Consumer Price Index;

(c) what was the wholesale and retail price index as on the 31st January, 1991, 31st January, 1992 and the 15th February, 1992; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to contain it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The quarterly rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers (Base: 1982=100) since quarter ending December, 1990 is given below:

Rate of increase in CPI

Quarter ending	Change (%)
December, 1990	4.2
March, 1991	1.0
June, 1991	4.0
September, 1991	5.7
December, 1991	1.8

(b) The unabated rise in the Consumer Price Index is mainly attributable to excess demand arising from the large and persistent fiscal deficits over the years resulting in excessive growth in money supply and a liquidity overhang. There have also been supply and demand imbalances in sensitive commodities like cereals, pulses, edible oils, etc. due to shortfalls in domestic production and constraints in importing desired quantities due to the severe foreign exchange crunch. Some pressure on prices may also have arisen because of increase in procurement/issue prices of some foodgrains and sugar, and administered prices such as coal, petroleum products (other than diesel and kerosene) and electricity.

(c) The wholesale price index (WPI) was 191.1 on 2nd February, 1991 (nearest to 31st January, 1991), 214.2 on 1st February, 1992 (nearest to 31st January, 1992) and 214.4 on 8th February, 1992 (latest available).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for

industrial workers was 202 for January, 1991 and 225 for December, 1991 (latest available).

(d) The Government has taken a number of measures to check the inflationary pressure in the economy. These include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit and growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/ sensitive commodities and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. Incentives are being provided for raising production to ensure medium-term stability in prices.

विदेशी ऋणों के लिए मानदंडों का उदार बनाया जाना

133. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
कुमारी सुशीला तिरिया:

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या निर्यातोन्मुखी परियोजनाओं और लघु-स्तरीय औद्योगिक एककों के लिए विदेशी ऋण लेने हेतु मानदंडों को उदार बनाये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। ऐसा कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है। तथापि विदेशी करेंसी-ऋणों के अनुमोदन के लिए राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं, भुगतान शेष की अदायगी—स्थिति और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय बाजारों में हुई गतिविधियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए समय-समय पर मानदण्डों की समीक्षा की जाती है।

जीवन बीमा निगम द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश तथा उड़ीसा को वित्तीय सहायता दिया जाना

134. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
कुमारी सुशीला तिरिया:

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान जीवन बीमा निगम द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश तथा उड़ीसा राज्यों को विभिन्न योजनाओं के अधीन कितनी-कितनी वित्तीय सहायता दी गई; और

(ख) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए जीवन बीमा निगम द्वारा जिन योजनाओं पर विचार किया जा रहा है उनका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस प्रयोजनार्थ कितनी धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह): (क) वर्ष 1989-90 और 1990-91 के दौरान उड़ीसा और मध्य प्रदेश के राज्यों में जीवन बीमा निगम द्वारा किया गया निवेश:

(करोड़ रुपए)

योजना	उड़ीसा		मध्य प्रदेश	
	1989-90	1990-91	1989-90	1990-91
1. राज्य सरकार की प्रतिभूतियां	22.75	28.00	10.77	17.00
2. भूमि विकास बैंक ऋणपत्र	—	—	3.00	—
3. राज्य बिजली बोर्ड बांड	—	—	—	10.00
4. राज्य वित्तीय/औद्योगिक विकास/औद्योगिक निवेश निगम	—	1.00	1.50	2.00
5. म्यूनिसिपल एवं पत्तन न्यास ऋणपत्र	—	—	—	—
6. अन्य अनुमोदित प्रतिभूतियां	—	—	—	—
निम्नलिखित को ऋण दिए गए:				
7. सामाजिक आवास योजनाओं के लिए राज्य सरकारें	5.29	6.90	4.64	4.69
8. शीर्ष सहकारी आवास वित्त समितियां, आवास बोर्ड और अन्य प्राधिकरण	5.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
9. जल आपूर्ति योजनाओं के लिए राज्य सरकारें/नगरपालिकाएं/जिला परिषदें, आदि	1.70	1.07	1.60	6.29
10. राज्य बिजली बोर्ड	20.55	17.39	86.29	72.29